

One of the names most closely associated with the progress of Kaukauna is Oscar Thilmany. A German immigrant who arrived in the United States in 1866, he tried his hand at a variety of occupations, going from a journalist for a New York newspaper to a company involved in wood preserving.

In Thilmany Pulp and Paper Company, Mr. Thilmany found his calling. With that calling came one of the most successful paper companies in all of Wisconsin today. I congratulate Thilmany Papers on their 125th anniversary and wish them much success in the years ahead.●

#### 120 YEAR PARTNERSHIP

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, today I recognize the 120th anniversary of State veterans' homes, SVHs.

Following the Civil War, a large number of newly disabled veterans struggled to earn a living as they adjusted back to civilian life. While the Federal Government operated national homes for qualifying Union volunteer soldiers, the total number of veterans in need of care was overwhelming.

In order to meet this need, a number of States independently opened SVHs to care for those injured in service to their country. The first such home opened in Rocky Hill, CT, in 1864.

In August 1888, aware it had a responsibility to assist those who had so diligently and honorably served their country, Congress pledged Federal funding to assist with the operation of existing and future SVHs. This original \$250,000 appropriation provided States with \$100 per eligible veteran enrolled in an SVH to assist in providing needed support to those who could no longer care for themselves.

Over time, as the number of veterans requiring care increased, the Federal Government responded by providing the States with added assistance. With the establishment of the Veterans' Administration, VA, in 1930, SVHs were expanded to include three levels of care, and in 1960, Congress established a per diem payment system to replace the annual appropriation and better reflect the funding needs of the Nation's SVHs. Finally, in 1964, Congress initiated the State Home Construction Grant Program, which provided further Federal assistance and created the opportunity for a dramatic increase in the quantity and quality of SVHs.

During this time, the National Association of State Veterans Homes, NASVH, was founded to promote legislation at the national level and increase communication among the Nation's SVHs. In partnership with the VA, the NASVH continues to advocate in support of the country's needy veterans and has been instrumental in increasing per diem and other funding rates.

Today, 120 years since the original appropriation, this State and Federal partnership has flourished. Currently, SVHs serve as one of the country's

largest long-term care providers—offering approximately 30,000 total beds at more than 130 SVHs nationwide. In a typical year, State veterans homes will furnish nearly 7 million days of nursing home care and about 1.5 million days of domiciliary care.

In New Hampshire, veterans receive the highest quality of care under the watchful eye of Commandant Barry Conway and his extremely capable staff in Tilton. It is because of these dedicated men and women in New Hampshire and around the country that our elder veteran community receives the care they have earned and deserve.●

#### RECOGNIZING AMBER MULDER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Amber Mulder, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Amber is a graduate of Western Christian High School in Hull, IA. Currently she is attending Hamline University School of Law. Amber is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Amber for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### RECOGNIZING BETSY POPPENS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Betsy Poppens, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Betsy is a graduate of Marion High School in Marion, SD. Currently she is attending Northwestern College, where she is majoring in public relations. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Betsy for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPENA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Alpena, SD. The town of Alpena commemorated its 125th anniversary of its founding with celebrations June 20–22, 2008.

Located in Jerauld County, Alpena was founded in 1883 and was named after the hometown of founder and railroad superintendent C.H. Prior. Since its beginning 125 years ago, the community of Alpena has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Alpena on this

milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTESIAN, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Artesian, SD. The town of Artesian commemorated its 125th anniversary of its founding with celebrations July 4–6, 2008.

Located in Sanborn County, Artesian was founded in 1883 and was named after the abundance of flowing wells in the area, known as artesian wells.

Since its beginning 125 years ago, the community of Artesian has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Artesian on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRUCE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Bruce, SD. The town of Bruce will commemorate its 125th anniversary of its founding with celebrations July 24–27, 2008.

Located in Brookings County, Bruce was founded in 1883 and was named after statesman B.K. Bruce, who was the first African American to serve a full term in the United States Senate. Since its beginning 125 years ago, the community of Bruce has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Bruce on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTERVILLE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Centerville, SD. The town of Centerville will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding with celebrations July 3–6, 2008.

Located in Turner County, Centerville was founded in 1883. It earned its name because of its location halfway between Yankton and Sioux Falls, and midway between Parker and Vermillion.

Since its beginning 125 years ago, the community of Centerville has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Centerville on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●